COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

OFFICIAL REPORT, BUDGET SESSION, 1121

Monday, *the* $\frac{\textit{5th August 1946}}{\textit{20th Karkadagam 1121}}$

The Council met in the Council Hall, Ernakulam, at half past Eleven of the Clock with the Hon'ble President (Sir GEORGE BOAG, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.) in the Chair.

Mrs. Dhakshayani Velayudhan, Rao Bahadur T. S. Narayana Ayyar, Messrs. C. N. Ittiravi Nambudiri, P. E. Warne and Jos K. Verghese were absent.

1. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

HOUSING SCHEME

140. Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) how far the housing scheme, which the Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development mentioned in his last Budget speech, has progressed;

(*b*) whether they have now at hand to be put into immediate action any scheme to provide house sites and houses (1) for low paid Government servants (2) for lower middle classes (3) for working classes at least in the Municipal towns of Ernakulam, Mattancheri and Trichur?

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Public Health):*

(*a*) The scheme has been examined along with the Post-war House Construction Scheme by the Post-war Subject Committee. Their decision will be placed before the General Committee.

(*b*) (1) Government have also prepared a scheme to provide residential quarters to low paid Government servants. For the present it will be confined to Ernakulam and Trichur. It will be extended to other Taluk Head quarters and other important places in due course. This scheme cannot be put into immediate operation in view of the high cost of building materials and labour charges that are prevailing now. (2) and (3) The schemes already under consideration of the Government will serve the purpose.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* May I know whether it was the intention of the Hon'ble Minister that the scheme has to be submitted to the Post-war Committee? When the Hon'ble Minister at the last Budget Session mentioned this scheme, was it his intention to have it sent to the Post-war Committee or to take it up independently of the Committee?

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Public Health):* I am not able to say now what my intention was then. I do not remember.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* May I know whether the Government have taken up any scheme which has been submitted for consideration by the Post-war Committee independent of the Committee now?

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Public Health):* All the schemes are considered together.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* What I want to know is whether the Government have taken up any scheme independent of the Post-war Committee.

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Public Health):* As I said just now there was a scheme proposed by me and for which a Committee was appointed. The report of that Committee was received. That report was sent to the Post-war Committee to see whether there is any necessity for co-ordination or to take it separately. It has now been found that there is no necessity to take it separately.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* May I know whether among the schemes submitted for consideration by the Post-war Committee, some of the schemes have been taken up for immediate action independent of the Post-war Committee?

Mr. President: Not independently of the Committee.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* I am putting the question whether it is a fact.

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Public Health):* I have not understood your question, either my understanding capacity is low or your expression of the question is not clear.

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Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* I am asking whether the Government has not taken up some of the schemes submitted for consideration by the Post-war Committee, other than house construction, independent of the Committee for immediate action.

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Public Health):* There may be. I am not able to say definitely, because there may be so many schemes.

Mr. President: I mentioned one or two of them in my Budget speech.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know, Sir, whether the house construction scheme of the Hon'ble Minister was not placed before the Post-war Reconstruction Committee considering that an examination by them of the scheme will be more beneficial in the interests of the scheme itself?

Mr. Parmabi Lonappen *(Minister for Public Health):* It will be more beneficial to place it before the Committee.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know, Sir, whether it was not the reason?

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Public Health):* There is a housing scheme proposed by the Minister. There is also the Post-war Reconstruction Scheme. We thought that it would be better to consider them together. There is no question of special advantage, benefit or any such thing.

Mr. V. R. Krishnan Ezhuthassan *(Oorakam):* May I know, Sir, how many Committees will be considering this scheme?

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Public Health):* The general Committee also.

Mr. P. Sankara Menon *(Trichur-North):* Is the Government aware that one of the reasons for the spread of Tuberculosis is the lack of accommodation among the poorer classes?

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Public Health):* I think accommodation in well ventilated rooms is better than confining to crowded rooms.

Mr. P. Sankara Menon *(Trichur-North):* If it is so, why did not the Government take up this scheme, before they launched upon the scheme of the T. B. Sanatorium?

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Public Health):* Sanatorium is intended for treating T. B. patients who are already affected.

Mr. P. Sankara Menon *(Trichur-North):* Would it not be better to take preventive measures first?

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Public Health):* Preventive measures are also being taken as far as possible.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know, Sir, whether the Hon'ble Minister is aware that the poor housing conditions are one of the most direct causes for T. B.?

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Public Health):* I do not know it because I am not an expert in medicine or public health; but as far as my knowledge of medicine goes, good air and sun will be a preventive for T. B.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I take it, Sir, that the Government will be pleased to look up some authorities on this question?

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Public Health):* There is no difficulty or any harm in looking it up and we can get information of that nature both from the Director of Public Health and the Chief Medical Officer. If the Hon'ble Member wants that the Minister must be posted with all the details connected with public health, it will be a difficult affair. Anyway I will try to have that information.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* That, Sir, is the type of Minister we want.

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Public Health):* I do not think it will be possible for any Minister to be erudite in all the subjects. He is not expected to be an expert in all the subjects which he has to deal with. On the other hand, public opinion is that he should not be.

Mr. P. Sankara Menon *(Trichur-North):* Does not the report submitted by Dr. Benjamin attribute poor housing conditions as one of the causes for the spread of T. B.?

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Public Health):* I do not remember.

Mr. K. Kochukuttan *(Nominated):* May I know whether the Government have received any scheme from the public?

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Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Public Health):* No. But some petitions have been received by Government from the public that loans must be given, and we have replied to them stating that it will be considered.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* May I know when it will be possible for the Government to take up the scheme?

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Public Health):* I am not able to say that because I know very little of astrology; but it is hoped that when labour conditions are better and charges are less and the cost of materials comes down, we will be able to push through the scheme expeditiously and profitably.

Mr. P. K. Dewer *(Nominated):* May we have some idea of the period?

Mr. President: The Hon'ble Minister has already said that he cannot prognosticate it.

Mr. V. R. Krishnan Ezhuthassan *(Oorakam):* May I know when can we expect the general committee to meet?

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Public Health):* I am not able to answer that question.

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* Within 6 to 8 weeks.

Mr. P. Mani *(Kanayannur):* In view of the answer to (*b*) regarding the high cost of materials and labour, do the Government realise that the necessity of housing problem is keenly felt at present?

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Public Health):* The Government feel that there is a necessity for providing houses for the middle class and the poor and that is why the Government made proposals for house construction.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Nellayi):* At the time when the budget speech was made last year by the Hon'ble Minister did he not know that the prices of articles and the cost of labour were very high?

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Public Health):* Yes, I knew that.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Nellayi):* May I know, Sir, whether at the time you mentioned these things, you had no idea of putting these things into action?

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Public Health):* Certainly not. The first day I made that speech I did not know fully and exactly the financial implications of the scheme. This is a scheme which I proposed before knowing the actual finances of the State. You cannot carry out the scheme without the requisite money for it.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Nellayi):* Is it the position of the Hon'ble Minister that before he made the speech during the last Budget Session he did not take into consideration the financial implications of the scheme that he has drafted?

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Public Health):* My idea was to give decent houses to the poor and middle class people and the proposal was that I should make an attempt in that direction as far as possible and therefore I made my attempt and I find now that there is some difficulty to execute it immediately. But it may not be postponed pretty long.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Nellayi):* Are we to take that the mention of big schemes is made with the intention of not taking them up?

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Public Health):* It may not be possible to execute them in a day. You know "Rome was not built in a day". It takes time to execute such schemes.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Nellayi):* May we have it in the course of one year?

Mr. V. R. Krishnan Ezhuthassan *(Oorakam):* Are we to take it that this scheme will not be put into operation before the cost of materials and labour comes down considerably?

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Public Health):* That does not arise.

Mr. V. R. Krishnan Ezhuthassan *(Oorakam):* It arises.

Mr. President: I think it does arise.

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Public Health):* This scheme cannot be put into immediate operation in view of the high cost of building materials and labour charges that are prevailing now. But if the urgency is so great, then we may have to overlook them.

Mr. V. R. Krishnan Ezhuthassan *(Oorakam):* Is not the urgency so great just now?

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Public Health):* I cannot say it just now.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Nellayi):* May I know whether some of the schemes are not included in the capital out-lay schemes?

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Rao Sahib P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* Not house construction schemes.

Mr. P. T. Jacob *(Latin Christians-Mattancheri):* Will the Government be pleased to consider the question of granting priority to the labour classes of Mattancheri?

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Public Health):* We will consider.

Mr. V. R. Kishnan Ezhutaassan *(Oorakam):* Has the Government really studied the scheme?

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Public Health):* Certainly.

PORKULAM VILLAGE PANCHAYAT OFFICE

141. Mr. Paramel Ipe Ipe *(Kunnamkulam):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

whether orders were passed for shifting Porkulam Village Panchayat Office from the present building in which it is housed now?

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Minister for Development):*

No.

Mr. Paramel Ipe Ipe *(Kunnamkulam):* May I know whether any resolution has been passed by the Panchayat requesting the removal of the Panchayat Office?

Mr. K. Balakrishna Menon *(Minister for Development):* I do not find anything on the record. I have to confess that I do not know anything regarding such a resolution.

CORRUPTION—CASES OF

142. Mr. K. Kochukuttan *(Nominated):* Will Government be pleased to answer the following.—

(*a*) are the Government obtaining monthly statements of corruption from the various departments;

(*b*) what is the total number of cases of corruption reported so far this year;

(*c*) have any special agency been set up by the Government to detect cases of corrup ion among Government officials?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) 12.

(*c*) No.

Mr. K. Kochukuttan *(Nominated):* May I know whether the Government has taken any action against these 12 persons?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* Yes.

Mr. P. A. Mohamad Ashrof *(Cranganur):* May I know whether there is any departmental head involved in it.

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M. B. E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* None of them are departmental heads.

Mr. Paramel Ipe Ipe *(Kunnamkulam):* May I know what is the total amount involved in this corruption matter?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M. B. E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* It is very difficult to compute it like that. In certain cases it was the taking of very small bribes, in one or two cases it was misappropriation and falsification of accounts, in certain other cases it is detention of persons unnecessarily.

Mr. Paramel Ipe Ipe *(Kunnamkulam):* May I know which are the departments concerned?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* Excise, Police, Municipalities, Education, Agriculture and Military Welfare.

Mr. M. K. Raja *(Mulakunnathukavu):* It is stated that there is no special agency to detect cases of corruption. May I know if it is the intention of the Government to set up a separate agency?

Rama Varmha Tampuran, M.B.E. *(Chief Secretary to Government):* At present, the departmental heads are to look into the matter but when we appoint a new committee, that committee can make suitable suggestions if they find that the present arrangements are not satisfactorily working.

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